

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CROSBY S. NOYES OP-ED COLUMN, WASHINGTON STARR, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, HEADED "VARIETIES OF GET-KISSINGERITES."

2. AS THE POLITICAL SEASON WARMS UP, THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IS REACHING NEW DIMENSIONS. IT IS, IN EFFECT, THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT OPPONENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION CAN PAY HIM THAT HIS PERFORMANCE HAS BECOME A CENTRAL ISSUE TO THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

3. AS I HAVE SUGGESTED BEFORE, THE ATTACKS ARE A MEASURE OF KISSINGER'S STATURE AND EFFECTIVENESS AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION AS IT IS PERCEIVED IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. IF HE WERE MORE OF A POLITICIAN, MR. KISSINGER WOULD BE WISE TO ACCEPT THE COMPLIMENT AND IGNORE THE ATTACKS. UNFORTUNATELY, HIS SENSITIVITY HAS LED

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HIM INTO A NUMBER OF EXPRESSIONS OF OUTRAGE WHICH, UNDER-

STANDABLE AS THEY ARE, HAVE APPEARED TO PUT HIM ON THE DEFENSIVE.

4. THERE ARE, IN FACT, NOT ONE, BUT AT LEAST THREE "GET KISSINGER" MOVEMENTS, MOUNTED BY SEPARATE FACTIONS. THE MOTIVATIONS OF THE THREE GROUPS DIFFER GREATLY. THE ONE THING THEY ALL SEEM TO AGREE ON IS THAT HENRY KISSINGER IS THE ONE, TRULY OUTSTANDING FIGURE IN AN OTHERWISE DRAB ADMINISTRATION.

5. THE FIRST AND MOST RESPECTABLE OF THESE GROUPS ARE THOSE WITH A GENUINE DISAGREEMENT WITH MR. KISSINGER'S CONDUCT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT ARE AS VARIED AS THE POLICIES THEMSELVES. BUT EVERYTHING THAT HE HAS DONE -- FROM VIETNAM TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO CHINA TO OUR DEALING WITH THE RUSSIANS -- HAS INEVITABLY PRODUCED STRONG DISSENT IN SOME QUARTERS.

6. THE SECRETARY, OF COURSE, HARDLY EXPECTS EVERYBODY IN THE COUNTRY TO AGREE WITH EVERYTHING HE DOES. TO THOSE ON THE LEFT, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT HE IS CONSIDERED A COLD WARRIOR; IT IS EQUALLY INEVITABLE THAT THE RIGHTWING, INCLUDING HENRY JACKSON AND RONALD REAGAN, SHOULD ACCUSE HIM OF BEING SOFT ON COMMUNISM IN HIS PURSUIT OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THIS DIVERSE GET-KISSINGER GROUP IS PART OF THE ACCEPTED RULES OF THE GAME.

7. THE SECOND IS SOMEWHAT LESS RESPECTABLE, BECAUSE IT EXISTS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ITSELF. DURING JAMES SCHLESINGER'S TENURE AT THE PENTAGON, A SUSTAINED, HIGH-POWERED EFFORT WAS MADE WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE NEWS MEDIA TO DISCREDIT THE SECRETARY. HERE AGAIN, THE BASIC DISAGREEMENT WAS INTELLECTUAL AND PROFESSIONAL WITH THE MILITARY BRASS (AND AT LEAST TO SOME DEGREE MR. SCHLESINGER ALSO) LINING UP AGAINST MR. KISSINGER'S THEORIES OF STRATEGIC SUFFICIENCY IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS. THIS MILITARY DISSENT HAS SUBSIDED, BUT BY NO MEANS ENDED, WITH THE DEPARTURE OF MR. SCHLESINGER.

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8. THE THIRD GROUP OF GET-KISSINGERITES BELONGS TO WHAT THE SECRETARY REFERS TO WITH SOME ACCURACY AS "A NEW VERSION OF MCCARTHYISM." LARGELY MADE UP OF BREAST-BEATING LIBERALS WHO REGARD MR. KISSINGER AS A SYMBOL OF THE WATERGATE ERA AND A HANGOVER FROM THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, THEY ARE APPARENTLY DETERMINED BY WHATEVER METHOD PROVES EFFECTIVE TO IMPLICATE THE SECRETARY IN THE MISDOINGS OF THE ERA.

9. EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY INNUENDO, MR. KISSINGER IS ACCUSED OF SUCH THINGS AS HAVING HAD A HAND IN THE SURVEILLANCE OF REPORTERS SUSPECTED OF BEING SECURITY RISKS, SELLING OUT THE KURDS AND PRESIDING OVER VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE FIASCOES. THE APPROVED TACTIC IS THE SYSTEMATIC LEAK OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IN A MANNER WHICH, THE SECRETARY COMPLAINS, IS "SO DISTORTED, SO GEARED TO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS, THAT THE TOTAL IMPACT IS TO PRODUCE A MALICIOUS LIE."

10. QUITE OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS THE GET-KISSINGER GROUP THAT GETS UNDER THE SECRETARY'S SKIN THE MOST AND IT MAY ALSO GET UNDER THE SKIN OF QUITE A NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO STILL BELIEVE IN ELEMENTARY FAIR-PLAY. FOR IT HAS NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE MAN'S QUALIFICATIONS TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE.

11. WHAT WE ARE BEING TOLD IN EFFECT IS THAT NO ONE CAN CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY IN THE POLITICAL CLIMATE THAT EXISTS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY. AND IF THIS IS TRUE, IT MAY BE MORE ADVISABLE TO CHANGE THE CLIMATE THAN CHANGE SECRETARIES. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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